



Phase II and Phase III Archaeological Database and Inventory

Site Number: 18CH748

Site Name: Chiles Homesite

Prehistoric

Other name(s) MIHP # CH-208; Mt. Pleasant

Historic

Brief Description: 18th-20th century farmstead, Prehistoric lithic scatter

Unknown

Site Location and Environmental Data:

Maryland Archaeological Research Unit No. 11

SCS soil & sediment code BaB,MkF

Latitude 38.4447

Longitude -77.2628

Physiographic province Western Shore Coastal

Terrestrial site

Underwater site

Elevation m

Site slope 2-5%

Ethnobotany profile available

Maritime site

Site setting

-Site Setting restricted

-Lat/Long accurate to within 1 sq. mile, user may need to make slight adjustments in mapping to account for sites near state/county lines or streams

Topography

- Floodplain
- Hilltop/bluff
- Interior flat
- Upland flat
- Ridgetop
- Terrace
- Low terrace
- High terrace
- Rockshelter/cave
- Hillslope
- Unknown
- Other

Ownership

- Private
- Federal
- State of MD
- Regional/county/city
- Unknown

Nearest Surface Water

Name (if any) Unnamed tributary of Poto

- | Saltwater | | Freshwater | |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> | Estuary/tidal river <input type="checkbox"/> | Stream/river <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Swamp <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Tidewater/marsh <input type="checkbox"/> | Lake or pond <input type="checkbox"/> | Spring <input type="checkbox"/> | |

Minimum distance to water is 350 m

Temporal & Ethnic Contextual Data:

- Paleoindian site
- Archaic site
- Early archaic
- Middle archaic
- Late archaic
- Woodland site
- MD Adena
- Early woodland
- Mid. woodland
- Late woodland
- Unknown prehistoric context

- Contact period site
- ca. 1820 - 1860
- ca. 1630 - 1675
- ca. 1675 - 1720
- ca. 1720 - 1780
- ca. 1780 - 1820
- Unknown historic context
- Unknown context

Ethnic Associations (historic only)

- Native American
- African American
- Anglo-American
- Hispanic
- Asian American
- Unknown
- Other

Y=Confirmed, P=Possible

Site Function Contextual Data:

- ### Prehistoric
- Multi-component
 - Village
 - Hamlet
 - Base camp
 - Rockshelter/cave
 - Earthen mound
 - Cairn
 - Burial area
 - Misc. ceremonial
 - Rock art
 - Shell midden
 - STU/lithic scatter
 - Quarry/extraction
 - Fish weir
 - Production area
 - Unknown
 - Other context

- ### Historic
- Urban/Rural? Rural
 - Domestic
 - Homestead
 - Farmstead
 - Mansion
 - Plantation
 - Row/townhome
 - Cellar
 - Privy
 - Industrial
 - Mining-related
 - Quarry-related
 - Mill
 - Black/metalsmith
 - Furnace/forge
 - Other
 - Transportation
 - Canal-related
 - Road/railroad
 - Wharf/landing
 - Maritime-related
 - Bridge
 - Ford
 - Educational
 - Commercial
 - Trading post
 - Store
 - Tavern/inn
 - Military
 - Battlefield
 - Fortification
 - Encampment
 - Townsite
 - Religious
 - Church/mtg house
 - Ch support bldg
 - Burial area
 - Cemetery
 - Sepulchre
 - Isolated burial
 - Bldg or foundation
 - Possible Structure
 - Post-in-ground
 - Frame-built
 - Masonry
 - Other structure
 - Slave related
 - Non-domestic agri
 - Recreational
 - Midden/dump
 - Artifact scatter
 - Spring or well
 - Unknown
 - Other context

Interpretive Sampling Data:

Prehistoric context samples Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken

Historic context samples Soil samples taken N

Flotation samples taken N Other samples taken



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Diagnostic Artifact Data:

Projectile Point Types		Koens-Crispin	
Clovis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Perkiomen	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hardaway-Dalton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Susquehana	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palmer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vernon	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Piscataway	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kirk (stem)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Calvert	<input type="checkbox"/>
Le Croy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Selby Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>
Morrow Mntn	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (notch)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Guilford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jacks Rf (pent)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Brewerton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Madison/Potomac	<input type="checkbox"/>
Otter Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Levanna	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Sherd Types			
Marcey Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Popes Creek	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dames Qtr	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coulbourn	<input type="checkbox"/>
Selden Island	<input type="checkbox"/>	Watson	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accokeek	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mockley	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wolfe Neck	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clemson Island	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vinette	<input type="checkbox"/>	Page	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	Townsend	<input type="checkbox"/>
Minguannan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sullivan Cove	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shenks Ferry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moyaone	<input type="checkbox"/>
Potomac Crk	<input type="checkbox"/>	Keyser	<input type="checkbox"/>
Yeocomico	<input type="checkbox"/>	Monongahela	<input type="checkbox"/>
Susquehannock	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Historic Sherd Types		Ironstone		Staffordshire		Stoneware	
Earthenware		1				English Brown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Astbury	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackfield	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tin Glazed	1	Eng Dry-bodied	<input type="checkbox"/>
Borderware	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mn Mottled	<input type="checkbox"/>	Whiteware	146	Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buckley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Devon	<input type="checkbox"/>	Porcelain	5	Rhenish	<input type="checkbox"/>
Creamware	9	Pearlware	77			Wt Salt-glazed	<input type="checkbox"/>

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Other Artifact & Feature Types:

Prehistoric Artifacts		Other fired clay	
Flaked stone	4	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ground stone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modified faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stone bowls	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unmod faunal	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire-cracked rock	10	Oyster shell	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other lithics (all)	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ceramics (all)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Uncommon Obj.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rimsherds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Prehistoric Features	
Mound(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shell midden	<input type="checkbox"/>
Postholes/molds	<input type="checkbox"/>
House pattern(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Palisade(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hearth(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lithic reduc area	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storage/trash pit	<input type="checkbox"/>
Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ossuary	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lithic Material		Fer quartzite		Sil sandstone	
Jasper	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chalcedony	<input type="checkbox"/>	European flint	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ironstone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Basalt	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rhyolite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Argilite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Unknown	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartz	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quartzite	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Dated features present at site

20th century barn, 18th century chimney ruin and foundations

Historic Artifacts		Tobacco related	
Pottery (all)	294	Activity item(s)	13
Glass (all)	464	Human remain(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Architectural	1096	Faunal material	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Furniture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Misc. kitchen	294
Arms	1	Floral material	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clothing	16	Misc.	103
Personal items	38	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Historic Features		Privy/outhouse		Depression/mound		Unknown	
Const feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Well/cistern	<input type="checkbox"/>	Burial(s)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trash pit/dump	<input type="checkbox"/>	Railroad bed	<input type="checkbox"/>	trench	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellar hole/cellar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sheet midden	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthworks	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Hearth/chimney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Planting feature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mill raceway	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Postholes/molds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Road/walkway	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wheel pit	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Paling ditch/fence	<input type="checkbox"/>						

All quantities exact or estimated minimal counts

Radiocarbon Data:

Sample 1: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 2: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 3: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 4: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 5: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 6: +/- years BP Reliability

Sample 7: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 8: +/- years BP Reliability Sample 9: +/- years BP Reliability

Additional radiocarbon results available



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Unknown

External Samples/Data:

Collection curated at

Additional raw data may be available online

Summary Description:

The Chiles Homesite (18CH748) is the archeological remains of an 18th-20th century farmstead and plantation house east of Douglas Point on the Potomac in rural Charles County. Remnants of a prehistoric lithic scatter are also present at the site. The Chiles Homesite is situated on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land on the edge of a heavily wooded ridgetop. The site today consists of stabilized twinned brick chimneys (MIHP# CH-208), the footprint of the original 18th century dwelling, the open brick-lined cellar of a mid 19th century addition, a depression representing the remains of an ice house, and an open brick-lined well. A second, shallower depression is visible west of the house foundations. Vegetation at the site constitutes a secondary growth of mixed hardwood and pine forest, with an undergrowth of holly. Fauna present in the area include such species as gray squirrel, cottontail rabbit, box turtle, black snake, and deer, as well as a variety of forest birds. Soils at the site are primarily Beltsville silt loams.

The earliest known owner of land that may have included Mount Pleasant is a John Lawson. In 1653, he patented a 500 acre tract called "Limmine" along the Potomac River in this area. By 1678, the property had been acquired by Zachariah Wade. Zachariah bequeathed the property along with other tracts (1,460 acres total) to his eldest son Richard. The portion of the property containing the site would remain in the Wade family until the mid 18th century, though other portions of the original tract were sold off over time.

In 1756 Richard Wade II sold a 150 acre tract to Henry Barnes for 3,000 lbs of tobacco. In 1761, Henry Barnes sold "part of Linn" (Limmine) to Jezreel Penn, "Gent." of Charles County for £165 sterling. Eleven year later, Penn acquired 100 additional acres out of the old Wade family tract from John Semple for £40 current money. This transaction united under one owner a major part of the tract that would eventually be the homeplace of the Shepard family, the likely builders of the first stage of the Mount Pleasant house (see below). Whether Jezreel Penn made the property along the Potomac his home or lived on another tract, we do know that he stood near the upper echelon of the county's social structure. Besides his title of "Gent" mentioned in the 1761 deed, he also was elected in 1774 to a Revolutionary committee of correspondence, composed of 100 of the county's "best known citizens". At the time, there were 700 independent landowners in the county. Testament to their trustworthy reputation, any 7 of the hundred men could represent the committee in the county's dealings with the Continental Congress.

In 1773, only a year after acquiring the additional 100 acres from John Semple, Jezreel Penn sold the two tracts for 9 shillings and an unspecified exchange of land to a Hugh Hamill. In contrast to Penn, Hamill had no title, not even planter.

Only a year later, Hamill sold the tracts for £411.15 current money to John Hoskins Stone. Described as a merchant of Charles County, Stone was only 24 years old in 1774. Yet he was elected to the same select Revolutionary committee as Penn. This was the beginning of a stellar career that began with a commission in the county militia and culminated with his election as governor of Maryland 20 years later. Even though he would eventually serve three year-long terms as governor, his reputation has been overshadowed by the fame of his older brother, Thomas, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

In 1776, John Hoskins Stone received a commission as the colonel of the 1st regiment of Smallwood's Battalion of the Maryland Line. His unit was involved in several actions in New York and Pennsylvania before he was seriously wounded in the ankle at the Battle of Germantown in 1777. Returning home to Charles County, he continued to vigorously support the war effort, enlisting new troops and garnering hard to find supplies. In 1781, he conceded that he had two "beeves" on his plantation in Nanjemoy, but would prefer to keep them since it was "the only Beef I shall have for my family next winter, if you can procure your number without them it will be doing an essential favor". Clearly, the war effort involved great sacrifice even for those at the pinnacle of the county's elite.

John H. Stone kept the properties until 1790, when he exchanged them with Francis Shepard for Middle Green Enlarged, a 155 acre tract in the county. On July 13, Stone and Shepard signed two separate deeds, each paying the other £500 current money of Maryland for the respective tracts. In the deed for Middle Green Enlarged, Francis Shepard, "commonly called Capt. [militia], acted as the "son and heir at law to John Sheppard deceased of Charles County, planter". Since John Sheppard's wife Mary Ann held life rights to the property, she had to testify before two justices that she consented to the sale. Francis Shepard and John H. Stone may have developed an acquaintance during the Revolutionary War, when Shepard served as a captain in the 1st Maryland Regiment under Stone's command. Revolutionary War records at the Maryland State Archives include receipts signed by or referring to Francis Shepard that are dated from 1779 to 1781.

By 1790, Francis Shepard headed a household with three males over 16 (including himself) and three females over 16. He also owned 7 slaves. When the tax commissioner visited Francis Shepard in 1798, he was assessed for only 181.5 acres, which also included a 2 acre lot with a dwelling worth \$150. Such a valuation would be consistent with Mount Pleasant's initial hall-parlor configuration. The 1800 Census listed Francis as owning two slaves. Francis Shepard died in 1806, apparently unmarried and without a will. With no kin other than his sisters, his brother Thomas served as executor and inherited his estate.

A more complete picture of the early Mount Pleasant plantation emerges from the probate documents at Thomas Shepard's death in 1816. Besides his wife Elizabeth, he mentions 8 children in his will. Since the 1810 census recorded a household of 13 free white persons, servants or relatives may have lived on the plantation as well. The estate inventory included 8 slaves and a large amount of livestock, including 8 horses, 4 oxen, 21 cattle, 38 sheep, and 28 pigs. Although the number of household goods is moderate given the size of the household, the listing of formal tableware suggests that Shepard took pains to display his rising status. Namely, the accouterments necessary for tea service included a dozen teaspoons, a dozen cups and saucers, sugar and slop bowls, a cream pot, "jappaned" [lacquered] sugar box and tea can, a pair of tea dishes, a set of castors, and a large tea board [tray]. Decanters and wine glasses would have been used to entertain guests in some degree of style. The family also enjoyed personal luxuries such as three mirrors, sets of breakfast plates, dinner plates, curtains, and pewter basins. The eight beds and 13 Windsor chairs are proportional to the rather large household - even if the four room house was not. The Windsor chairs may also be indicative of Shepard's social aspirations.

In his will, Thomas stipulated that his estate remain intact. His wife Elizabeth would have rights to all real and personal estate until she remarried or died. Afterward, the plantation would, "be kept together for the use of [six of his children] during their single lives". When his daughters were no longer alive or single, sons William F., Alexander, and Luther W. Shepard would share the property. The personal estate would be divided equally between all 8 children once is passed from their mother's control.

Elizabeth Shepard died in 1830. At the time she owned 15 slaves and had acquired land in addition to Mount Pleasant. As stipulated in Thomas Shepard's will, the estate continued to benefit the Shepard children for more than 10 years after their mother's death. In 1841, Walter H.J. Mitchell, appointed by the



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Brief

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Unknown

Description:

court to settle Thomas Shepard's will, sold 500 acres known as Mount Pleasant and part of "Little Finn" to William J. Chiles for \$3,400.

Originally from Caroline County, VA, Chiles had moved to Charles County about 1837. Since Chiles' obituary places him in the county by this time, this must be the same "Rev. William Chiles", "Rev. William I. Childs", or "William Isham Chiles/Childs" who appears in court records, newspaper notices, and census records through 1874. The 1840 census listed a William Childs heading a household with a white boy and girl each 10-15 years old, a white woman of 30-40, and 14 slaves. It may have been the following year that he married Jane Shepard, the daughter of Thomas Shepard, and purchased the family's ancestral tract.

By 1850, 39 year-old William "Childs" was listed with his wife Jane (32), son William S. (10), and daughters Mary (6) and Ida (6 months). The white woman of 30-40 years listed in Childs' household in 1840 could not have been his wife Jane since she would only have been 22 at the time. His 6 year-old daughter apparently preferred another name. A gravestone at Mount Pleasant for Kate M. Golden shows she lived from 1844 to 1870. According to her obituary, she was born at the plantation, the only daughter of Rev. W.I. Chiles, sleeping "her last sleep by the beautiful home of her childhood". The notice incorrectly omitted mention of her younger sister. According to another gravestone, "Ada had died less than a month before her 5th birthday.

Although the 1850 census records Chiles as a farmer with \$3,000 of real estate, he was already in the middle of the first of two tenures as the minister of Nanjemoy Baptist Church. According to church records, he served from 1837 to about 1855-1857 and again from 1867 to his death in 1874. A health problem is believed to have contributed to his temporary retirement. Over the course of his career in Nanjemoy, Chiles baptized more than 400 people, including a large number of African-Americans who eventually formed their own church.

The Port Tobacco Times provided further details about Chiles' activities in Charles County from the end of 1845 through his death in 1874. Perhaps reflecting on Chiles' participation in community affairs, as well as his pastoral duties, the obituary writer characterized him, "as a most useful citizen, and ornament to society [who] died as he had lived - without an enemy". Testament to his service to the church, no fewer than 11 notices of marriages name him as the officiant, including one ceremony at Mount Pleasant, though he no doubt performed many more. Bridging church concerns and the political sphere, in 1853 he served on a local temperance committee advocating repeal or modification of the county's licensing laws. While devoted to his calling as a clergyman, his involvement in civic affairs was proportional to his means and standing within the community.

A detailed accounting of the county's expenses in 1867-1868 shows that Chiles subscribed \$99 toward road projects, the second highest contribution in the 1st District. Later in 1871 he joined three other citizens appealing, "to close the road leading past Cross Roads to the Blue Banks". The petition proposed opening an existing road to Liverpool Point as a public road. A map made at the end of the Civil War shows the road to the Blue Banks ran a few hundred yards north of the Chiles place, while another headed southwest on the south side of his property toward a landing on Wade's Bay.

Following Reverend Chiles' death in 1874, the property passed to his son, William S. Chiles. Just before the younger Chiles died 5 years later, he conveyed Mount Pleasant to his wife Matilda. When she moved to New Jersey in 1900, the tract was leased to tenants. Nine years later, Walter H. Thomas and Francis Rumig of St. Mary's County purchased Mount Pleasant. Examination of vegetation patterns on a 1913 topographic map (surveyed 1911) indicates that Thomas and Rumig did not farm the tract during this period. The map also depicts a well-developed network of secondary roads extending westward toward the Potomac from the community Cross Roads. At this time, the unpaved road leading past Mount Pleasant included a small loop to the southeast, which rejoined the road to Wades Bay just at the foot of the slopes to the south of the house. The Wades Bay road then extended to a structure in the floodplain of Linn Run and the Potomac.

When Thomas and Rumig failed to pay taxes, the county took control of the property and sold it to Walter J. Mitchell in 1929. Planning to locate a nuclear power plant along this stretch of the Potomac River, PEPCO acquired this and numerous adjacent tracts in 1972. In the face of strong opposition to the proposed power plant, the company abandoned their plans in the 1980s. Currently, the natural and cultural resources at Mount Pleasant and adjacent acreage are managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

The site was first recorded as an archeological site in 2005, but has been known to MHT since at least the 1950s as an architectural resource. In the mid-1950s, the "Chiles House", also known historically as "Mount Pleasant", was still standing and was visited by architectural historian, Henry Chandlee Forman, who published sketches of the first and second floor plans as well as elevations and interior feature drawings. In the 1970s, when PEPCO acquired the Chiles farmstead and adjacent properties with the intention of constructing a nuclear power plant on site, MHT sponsored an effort to thoroughly document what remained at the site. The standing structure was considerably diminished, with only the double chimney, two walls from the original section, and 4 walls from a 19th century addition remaining above ground. The documentation in the 1970s in addition to that done in the 1950s allowed MHT to reconstruct the evolution of the structure.

The two-room plan of the original structures was likely built in the 1770s by property owner Francis Shepard. Sometime between 1800 and 1820, porches were added to the east and west sides of the house, either by Francis Shepard or his twin brother Thomas who acquired the property in 1806. The second major period of construction occurred after the Rev. William Chiles acquired the property in 1841. Addition of a two-storey wing with a front porch on the west side nearly doubled the size of the house and was probably constructed by Rev. Chiles or his son, William S. Chiles during the third quarter of the 19th century.

Beginning in the late winter and into the spring of 2005, a testing and evaluation program was carried out by the William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research (WMCAR) at the Chiles Homesite (18CH748). This evaluation was conducted in accordance with an agreement with the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and was necessary to determine the eligibility of the site for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The evaluation also was intended to provide information for development of plans for public interpretation of the archeological site and the remaining ruins, and of its environs.

Field evaluations were initiated with the establishment of a 10 m grid across the site, with a center point located north of a chain link fence that BLM had placed around the ruins of the extant chimneys and house foundation. The grid was oriented at 22 degrees west of north to maximize the number of grid points for shovel testing that could be placed on relatively level areas at the core of the site. Information about resources west and south of the house foundation (site core) was augmented by additional shovel testing at 5 m intervals. In total, 87 shovel test were excavated across the site. Detailed maps of shovel test locations as well as above-surface features and soil depressions were prepared.

In addition to the shovel test pits (STPs), three 1 X 2 m test units and two 1 X 1 m units were excavated at the site. Test unit excavation focused primarily on



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Description:

Investigation of loci that had the highest potential for containing intact cultural deposits and/or features. Indications of such potential included high relative densities of historic artifacts, particularly those dating from the late 18th century, as revealed through shovel testing. Test units were also excavated for features as they were exposed.

The soil from all shovel tests and test units was screened through hardware cloth to ensure adequate recovery of artifacts. Representative soil profiles were recorded on standardized forms using Munsell color and US Dept. of Agriculture descriptive terminology. Test units were excavated by skim shoveling and troweling. All artifacts turning up in the screen were retained, with the exception of brick and mortar fragments found in two of the units (which were weighed and discarded in the field). Natural strata were excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels until the underlying stratum was encountered. Test unit profiles were drawn for each test unit upon completion of excavations to sterile subsoil. Information about soils, artifacts, and stratigraphy was recorded on standardized forms.

Of the 87 shovel tests excavated across the site, 56 (64%) were positive for a total of 547 artifacts. The stratigraphy for most of the site area consisted of topsoil over subsoil, though additional strata were present near the house and loci of outbuildings. Test unit excavation resulted in the recovery of an additional 1,468 artifacts. Temporally diagnostic artifacts recovered were dominated by materials dating to the 19th century. Test unit excavation also revealed 2 late 19th/early 20th century features: a possible structural posthole and an associated trench feature.

Historic artifacts recovered during the 2005 study included 13 activity items (3 oil lamp burners, 3 pieces of lamp glass, 1 toy marble, 5 flowerpot fragments, and a pen nib), 1,059 architectural artifacts (444 handmade brick pieces, 65 mortar and plaster fragments, 1 piece of architectural stone, 1 piece of plate glass, 216 window glass fragments, 10 asphalt shingles, 38 wrought nails, 52 cut nails, 5 wire nails, 226 unidentified nails, and a wrought iron spike), 16 clothing items (buttons), 292 ceramic sherds (1 tin-enamelled, 8 creamware, 77 pearlware, 11 refined earthenware, 5 porcelain, 2 bone china, 1 ironstone, 146 whiteware, 25 coarse earthenware, 5 yellowware, 10 miscellaneous stoneware, and 1 unidentified ceramic), 208 pieces of kitchen glass (6 table glass, 1 glass hollowware, 201 container glass), 276 miscellaneous kitchen items (131 metal can fragments, 18 enamelled hollowware, 1 pull tab, 94 bone, 31 oyster shell, and 1 egg shell), 38 personal artifacts (2 keys, 25 chamber pot fragments, a 1920 Lincoln penny, 2 watch parts, and 8 fossil shark teeth), 9 tobacco-related artifacts (6 white clay pipe stems, 2 white clay pipe bowls, and a reed pipe bowl), 1 arms object (a shotgun shell), and 89 miscellaneous objects (a rat/mouse bone, 37 unidentifiable glass pieces, and 51 unidentified objects).

In general, the 18th through 20th century components at Site 18CH748 are stratigraphically indistinguishable. Nevertheless, intact cultural deposits in the form of the two features were observed in one test unit. Though not revealed through excavation, the investigations documented numerous site activity areas and significant features through above-ground mapping as well: the dwelling's foundations with standing chimneys, remnants of the ice house, well and other outbuildings, the old wharf road, remnant brick walkways and other landscape elements. In addition, artifact densities are higher adjacent to sloped areas than in areas of level terrain, which may be indicative of meaningful site structure. It was determined by the WMCAR and BLM that 18CH748 retained sufficient integrity and research potential to provide important information about settlement patterns, subsistence/agriculture, and site structure/function on domestic farmsteads of the late 18th through early 20th centuries in the Coastal Plain of Maryland. MHT ultimately concurred with this opinion.

The prehistoric component at 18CH748 was found to consist of a lightly manifested, diffuse scatter of lithic debris, possibly resulting from one or more temporary camps from an unknown prehistoric time period. The assemblage consisted of 3 flakes, 10 pieces of fire-cracked rock, and an unmodified (non-local) chert fragment. Due to the low density of artifacts and lack of research potential, the prehistoric component has been deemed insignificant.

A Phase I survey was carried out in the general vicinity of the site, including within a narrow corridor crossing the site in 2006. The Phase I work was carried out as part of a BLM project to install an interpretive trail on the property, as well as a paved access road and a handicapped-accessible duck blind. The interpretive trail would pass directly across the Chiles Homesite, passing alongside the standing ruins of the brick chimney and other features. Again, the work was carried out by WMCAR.

Survey work consisted of systematic shovel testing at 15 m intervals within the 20 m right-of-way ROW for the interpretive trail and other project features. Within the boundaries of 18CH748, twenty-five shovel tests (the text of the full report says 27 STPs, while site maps depict 25) were excavated during the 2006 project. Soils from each test unit were screened through hardware cloth and representative soil profiles were recorded on standardized forms using Munsell color and USDA descriptive terminology. The location of all shovel test were recorded on field plans of the project corridor.

Nine of the shovel tests within the boundaries of 18CH748 produced artifacts, 6 of those in the vicinity of a 20th century barn. Stratigraphy in the area of the barn and the immediate vicinity of the house generally consists of two strata over subsoil. Artifacts recovered were largely representative of the late 19th century occupation of the house.

Artifacts recovered from the 20th century barn area included 5 nail fragments (1 cut), 4 handmade brick fragments, 1 sherd of stoneware, 1 canning jar fragment, 1 bottle glass fragment, and 14 fragments of iron. Artifacts recovered from the vicinity of the house ruins include 1 wrought nail, 27 brick fragments, 1 sherd of creamware, and 18 pieces of iron can. In addition, one unidentifiable quartzite biface fragment was recovered.

Intact cultural deposits and features have been identified at 18CH748. It was determined by the WMCAR and BLM that 18CH748 retained sufficient integrity and research potential to provide important information about settlement patterns, subsistence/agriculture, and site structure/function on domestic farmsteads of the late 18th through early 20th centuries in the Coastal Plain of Maryland. It was recommended as eligible for listing on the NRHP. The Maryland Historical Trust ultimately concurred with this opinion.

External Reference Codes (Library ID Numbers):

95001292, 95001293